

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference E30271 JFL/NJOB | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416 | |
| International application No. PCT/NO2003/000234 | International filing date (day/month/year) 04-07-2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 05-07-2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G07F 7/06, G07C 15/00 | | |
| Applicant TOMRA SYSTEMS ASA ET AL | | |

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|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>7</u> sheets, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Date of submission of the demand 02-02-2004 | Date of completion of this report 11-10-2004 |
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/NO2003/000234

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
 pages 1 - 17 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* 1 - 7 received by this Authority on 06 - 10 - 2004
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 pages 1 - 5 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2003/000234

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | <u>1-17</u> | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | <u>1-17</u> | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | <u>1-17</u> | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The problem to be solved by the claimed invention is to provide a method and a system contributing to an increase in the return of empty packaging and to an increase in the desire to return empty packaging.

The following documents (D) are referred to in this communication:

D1: WO, 97/46985, A1
 D2: US, 6267670, B1
 D3: US, 5085308, A

Document D1 (page 3, line 25- page 5, line 31) discloses a reverse vending machine allowing a user to decide that the compensation paid is to be devoted to charity. The machine comprises report producing means either constituting a part of the machine itself or in combination with an external computer located at the site of the reversed vending machine or remotely in a report centre for the charity organization in question. The reverse vending machine communicates with the external computer through a communication link.

Document D2 (abstract, figures 1, 2, 5, 8-11, column 10, lines 46-64) discloses a system and method for performing integrated lottery and merchandise transaction: a customer at a POS (point of sales) may choose to purchase a lottery ticket in exchange for the change amount. The method includes the steps of calculating a change amount of a merchandise transaction; receiving a request to purchase a lottery ticket in exchange for the change amount; transmitting a request for

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: Box V

a lottery ticket, the request including the change amount; receiving lottery ticket information that is based on the change amount; and printing the lottery ticket information on a receipt if the request to purchase a lottery ticket in exchange for the change amount is received, the lottery ticket information including a plurality of lottery numbers. It is implicit in the application that if there is no connection to the lottery data processing system, which corresponds to the external database server according to the application, the customer is handed the change in cash. I.e. the customer is allowed to choose between buying lottery tickets with the change amount or receiving the change amount. The customer may also select lottery number, this information is sent to the lottery data processing system by the POS controller.

Document D3 (column 4, lines 59-68) discloses a reverse vending machine allowing a user to play a game and winning a prize when returning articles.

The cited documents, thus, represent the general state of the art and the invention defined in claims 1-17 is not disclosed by any of these documents.

The cited prior art does not give any indication that would lead a person skilled in the art to the claimed method and system related to ordering lottery tickets. Therefore, the claimed invention is not obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Accordingly, the invention defined in claims 1-17 is novel and is considered to involve an inventive step. The invention is industrially applicable.